

# Meadows MakerSpace



Have you heard about the *amazing STEAM Room at Meadows*? No, not that kind of steam room! Room 23 is newly designed and is ready for Meadows students to come create and explore all types of Makerspace challenges!

## **Makerspace FAQs: What you need to know!**

**What is Makerspace?** Makerspace is an innovative program that presents hands-on, creative ways to encourage students to design, experiment, build and invent.

### **What's new for Makerspace this year?**

We have a teacher dedicated to building our Makerspace program. Our 2nd - 5th Grade students will participate and engage in four Makerspace challenges over the course of the school year. Each Makerspace challenge will launch during a 45-minute session led by MBUSD Teacher on Special Assignment (TOSA), Gretchen Gabreski. The launch activity exposes students to Science, Technology, Engineering, Art, and Mathematics (STEAM) disciplines and strategies where students engage in solving engineering challenges using the engineering design process.

### **What types of launch activities will the Teacher on Special Assignment (TOSA) present?**

Ms. Gabreski will present four challenges throughout the school year. In the first challenge, students will solve a problem through the design and engineering process. Students in grades 2 will work to design a solution for keeping marbles on a matchbox car that must go up a ramp and then down a ramp. Students in grades 3-5 will strive to design a boat that can float and move while carrying cargo.

### **Where does Makerspace take place?**

Students engage in inspiring Makerspace activities in Meadows' new STEAM

Room! With the help of [a grant](#) from Chevron, Room 23 has been transformed into a high-tech lab that provides students with the ideal environment and hands-on tools to create, invent and inspire! If you haven't seen it yet, make sure to come and check it out! Materials for the teacher-directed lessons and open lab sessions will be obtained by PTA funds and [by parent donations](#).

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### When is Makerspace?

The working schedule for the STEAM Room is as follows:

- The lab will be open for grades 2 & 3 on Monday and Thursdays during morning recess.
- Grades 4 & 5 may come create in the lab on Tuesdays and Fridays during morning recess.
- Students [are welcome to attend Wednesday lunch labs using a signup sheet that will be posted outside classroom doors](#).
- All students (K-5) are welcome to attend open lab after school on Tuesdays from 2:05-3:00pm and on early release Wednesdays from 1:20-3pm

The schedule is dependent on parent volunteers. Please look for a Sign Up Genius schedule for recess, [Wednesday lunch](#), and after school time slots.

### Who can participate?

All K-5th grade classrooms will have several opportunities to visit the STEAM Room this year. K-1 students can come visit the STEAM Room on scheduled afternoons. Students in grades 2-5 will receive direct instruction in class in addition to being able to attend open labs during recess and on scheduled afternoons.

### What do students do in the STEAM Room?

The STEAM Room is the hub for Makerspace challenges! Students may continue projects initiated in the classroom while in the room. They may also use their imagination to create original designs and inventions or engage in challenges designed by the Makerspace volunteer team.

### How can I help?

Parent volunteers and materials are a critical part of running the lab. Please watch for supply list requests and volunteer time openings on signup genius in the Mustang Minute.

Additional questions? Please contact Kimberly Rosenfeld at [kimberfeld@aol.com](mailto:kimberfeld@aol.com) or Elizabeth Hiatt at [elizabethhiatt@yahoo.com](mailto:elizabethhiatt@yahoo.com).